



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

THE GUARDIAN

A newsletter by Task Force Guardian of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2006

OVERALL PROTECTION RESTORED STATUS: 69 percent Complete

*New Orleans: Home
To You and the Corps*

MEETING PROJECT MILESTONES

*New Orleans: Home
To You and the Corps*

Throughout its mission, Task Force Guardian has identified milestones in hurricane protection restoration. A milestone indicates an important event, like the final removal of barges and boats from levees (see below, "Vessels removed from levees"), or, in the case of Task Force Guardian, they also indicate "protection restored" status, such as the completion of projects (page 2, "One step closer at IHNC"). Milestones are approaching quickly and Task Force Guardian is on the move for the final stretch of its mission to restore hurricane protection to authorized pre-Katrina levels.

"Although our efforts to provide better and stronger hurricane protection will continue throughout the summer, the mission to restore the hurricane protection system to pre-Katrina levels will be attained by June 1. Our commitment is to provide the best possible protection within our congressional authorities in the shortest amount of time. Our contractor partners are committed to attain the June 1 goal, and I am confident they will and, together, we will continue to improve the system in the future, providing better and stronger protection for the citizens of New Orleans."



VESSELS REMOVED FROM LEVEES

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, working in conjunction with the U.S. Coast Guard, contractors, and private owners, removed the final vessel impacting levee repairs from a Plaquemines Parish area levee this week. The vessel, a barge, was moved from the levee by its owner this week (April 17).

Task Force Guardian, the Corps of Engineers organization responsible for restoring the hurricane protection system throughout New Orleans to pre-Katrina levels, found more than 150 barges and ships impeding their recovery efforts as they lay stranded on various levees and work-sites. Removing the vessels allows Task Force Guardian to complete the repairs of the Hurricane Protection System to pre-storm condition by the start of the hurricane season on June 1.

"This is great news for Task Force Guardian," said Don Rawson, the Corps of Engineers' project manager responsible for insuring removal of the vessels. "The last barge was the only vessel that remained in the way of our construction work. There are still some boats and barges stranded throughout the area, but our mission was specific to our repair efforts and keeps us on track for meeting our June 1 goal," he added.

Rawson also praised the efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard, which was instrumental in helping to remove the numerous stranded vessels over the last five months. The overall removal effort was at a cost of more than \$3 million and was well coordinated between the Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Coast Guard, the shipping/navigation industry and private owners.



A vessel sits atop the levee in Plaquemines Parish after Hurricane Katrina ripped through coastal Louisiana.

Task Force Guardian is the Army Corps of Engineers team whose mission is to restore the greater New Orleans hurricane protection system to pre-Katrina levels.

TREE REMOVAL NOTICE

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Task Force Guardian will begin cutting trees later this month along the 17th Street, Orleans Avenue and London Avenue outfall canals; the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal; and the Lake Pontchartrain lakefront in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

The removal of trees and woody plants is part of the repair effort and is necessary to help insure the integrity of the hurricane protection system. Trees located on or adjacent to a levee or floodwall pose risk to the integrity of the system by providing a pathway for water to work its way into the levees.

The trees will be removed in phases. The first phase of the effort will focus on cutting and removing trees and woody plants on the water side of the canals, and within the known levee and floodwall rights-of-way. As additional rights-of-way are established, trees within 15 feet of the levee toe may be removed to insure the integrity of, and prevent damage to the system. Uprooted trees will also be removed. An estimated 850 landowners will be affected by the tree removal effort. Efforts will be made to contact those owners, and notices will be published in the newspaper.

During the next phase the contractors will remove the stump and root system, fill and grade the holes, and reseed. The Corps is reviewing its criteria for root-free and vegetation-free zones, and changes in that criteria may result in the need to acquire additional rights-of-way and cutting of additional trees.

Residents or media with questions concerning tree removal should contact Task Force Guardian toll-free at 1-866-830-5038.

ONE STEP CLOSER AT IHNC

On April 13, M.R. Pittman, a Louisiana-based contractor with Task Force Guardian, placed the final two concrete L-wall sections on the west side of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal from south of France Road Ramp to north of Benefit Street.

The final L-wall placement on the west side of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal marks another milestone in the Corps' mission to restore the Greater New Orleans hurricane protection system to pre-Katrina conditions by June 1.

"Placement of these final two sections means there is now basic protection restored to this portion of the wall in this area of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal," said Stuart Waits, project manager. "Work will continue, and by June 1—the start of hurricane season, it will actually be better protection than the pre-Katrina condition because of the L-wall design, the steel H-piles, longer steel sheet piles and scour protection," he emphasized.

"We are on target to restore protection at the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal before the start of the 2006 hurricane season."



Contractor M.R. Pittman pours concrete into the frames to form the final two walls on the west side wall of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal.

If you have questions or comments about this publication or projects under Task Force Guardian, please contact TFG Public Affairs at 504-862-2527 (toll-free 866-830-5038) or email us at b2tfgpao@usace.army.mil. Public Affairs is committed to working with the greater New Orleans area to provide you with important information about the progress of the projects under Task Force Guardian. You may also visit the TF Guardian web site at <http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/tfg/>. This newsletter is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR360-1. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Corps of Engineers or the Department of the Army.

Col. Lewis Setliff.....	TFG Commander
Kim Gillespie.....	Public Affairs Officer
David Deshotels.....	Public Affairs Specialist, 17th St., Orleans & London Canals
Tina Dixon.....	Public Affairs Specialist, IHNC and St. Bernard Parish
Jon Fleshman.....	Public Affairs Specialist
Paul Floro.....	Public Affairs Specialist, Plaquemines and St. Bernard Parishes
Robin Fulkerson.....	Public Affairs Specialist and Editor